We are returning this morning to Mark’s gospel chapter five. We were looking at Jairus’ daughter last week and in looking at his daughter we skipped over a passage of Scripture. The dealing with Jairus was interrupted by a dealing of our Lord with a woman who had a serious illness. We are going to pick up that reading this morning beginning at verse 25.

Mark chapter five beginning our reading at verse 25.

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.¹

Amen.

We will end our reading at verse 34. Again, with the Word of God open before us, let us bow our hearts in prayer asking for the help of the Holy Spirit in our study this morning.

Father in heaven, we come to thee this morning thanking thee for the Word of the living God, thanking thee that you have ordained that this Word would be the means whereby you would covert sinners, this Word would be the means whereby you would bless your people. Lord, in this service we come now to the time of the exposition of this passage of Scripture and we confess our need of the Holy Spirit to understand this book aright.

¹ Mark 5:25-34
It is not that the book is inaccurate. It is not that the book is inadequate. The problem is with our own hearts and souls. The problem is with our own remaining sin. Lord, we need the help of thy Spirit to understand thy Word aright. And, Lord, we would ask that as we gather now to study this book, if the teacher, the writer of the book himself would come and teach us of the things of Christ. Lord, come. Speak to our hearts and given to each one that which we need for we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

When you study the Word of God you come to the conclusion that man is a very complex being. The physical part of man can influence the spiritual and the soul of man can influence the body. For instance, in the book of Proverbs the writer Solomon says, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.”

Certainly, even now, in our day and age, it is recognized that how you feel in your heart and soul, the immaterial part of you can affect how you are in the physical part. I can’t explain that this morning.

At the beginning of this week I had to see a doctor about an ear infection and I went in and as they always do they check everything about you. They check your eyes, your nose, your mouth, your blood pressure, your heart rate.

The lady said to me, she said, “You have got high blood pressure.”

I said, “Well, I here at the doctor’s office. There is a reason for that.”

She said, “We need to put you on this medicine.”

I said, “Well, let’s try diet and exercise a little bit longer and see if that doesn’t help.”

So I went home and the next day went for a long, long walk. Came back and wife put me on our blood pressure machine and, sure enough, it was just perfect. So I decided to check it the rest of the week and checked it another day and it was ok. I checked it another day and, sure enough, it was up again.

And my wife came to me she says, “What are you thinking about? Are you worrying about some aspect of the ministry?”

And she had pegged it pretty well. She said, “Put that out of your mind. We’re going to check you again.”

And so we put that out of the mind, took a deep breath, checked again, it was fine, fine.

Some of you know what I am talking about. You go see a doctor and because you went to see the doctor your blood pressure went up. Why is that? How is the blood connected with the soul? I can’t explain this.

2 Proverbs 17:22
If I can use a more serious illustration, Martyn Lloyd-Jones talked about a woman who was dying. She wanted to see her son. The son was coming and it looked like she should have died and she didn’t. She was hanging on and hanging on. Finally the son came and saw her and after seeing her immediately she went to be with the Lord.

How does the soul affect the body? I can’t tell you.

But I can tell you, you are a very complex being and your body does affect your soul, does it not? When you feel sick, does not it affect your thinking? It effects your walk with the Lord and vice versa. And when you are joyous, even with a perhaps pain in the body if your heart is overwhelmed with what the Lord has done for you, you drag that body around with you and make that body sing praise to the Lord because you heart is in tune with the Lord.

We are very complex. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.³

The difficulty, though, with us, as God’s people, is often times we take pain to deal with the body needs that we have, but not the soul’s need. As a preacher I am in the Word of God daily. That is not usually my need. My need is to get some exercise because sitting a desk you don’t get much exercise. But for many of you, you get exercise all through the week. You don’t need more exercise. What you need is a time to be in the Word. We need both, both the physical exercise, but especially the spiritual exercise, exercising our mind and heart in the Word, exercising our soul in prayer, exercising our Spirit, as it were, by telling others that which we know of the Lord.

Our spiritual well being often is that which affects our physical well being and our whole being is affected because we are not seeing the Lord and drawing nigh to the Lord and coming to the Lord on a daily basis.

Last week we were thinking of a man who had a need in his family and he came to the Lord for that need. He was concerned about a daughter, a daughter who was dying and he couldn’t bring his daughter to the Lord so he brought the Lord to the daughter. And we made the application that that is a need that all of us have, especially as our children are born into the family. They are dead in trespasses and sins and we are crying unto the Lord that he would come and that he would regenerate us.

We also have the illustration of Scripture of people bringing their children to the Lord. Not merely were they crying on the Lord to come to them, but they were bringing their children to the Lord. We are going to see that in Mark chapter 10. It is very important that you bring your children to the house of God. It is very important you bring them to a place where they are going to study God’s Word and hear God’s Word and be instructed in the ways of salvation. But not just here. It is important you bring them to the Lord daily in your home, in the private place, in your own prayer time, that you are calling upon the Lord and bringing them to the Lord.

³ See Psalm 139:14
This morning we are studying someone who came to the Lord with her own needs. And in studying this woman we don’t know her name. We don’t know much of her background other than her need. She came to the Lord and she had her need met. And in doing so she is an illustration to each one of us that we are to come to the Lord for our own personal needs, not merely come unto the Lord because we someone else has a need and try to bring them to the Lord. No, we have needs.

This morning if you come here and meet with the Lord you will be blessed. If this morning you merely come to the crowd and never come to the Lord himself, never cry out to him, never reach up and touch his garments, you are going to go away from this house unblessed.

This morning I want to deal with what we were singing about, that the Lord is our vision, that he is the one that we worship and serve and he is the one that we commune with. We must seek him for salvation, yes, but we must also seek him for the blessings that he provides for his people.

I want us to think on this woman’s faith. Our Lord noted her faith and at the end of what we were reading in verse 34 he said, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole.”⁴ That is what I want us to focus on this morning. Because she did demonstrate real faith she was rewarded for her faith. But when we first meet the woman we find that she has a confidence in men that was, indeed, disappointing. She was disappointed by men.

So, first of all, this morning as we think about our need for seeking Christ and believing upon him for blessing I want us to think on the fact that this woman had a faith in man that was eventually reversed. What am I talking about?

Well, it says here she sought doctors for help. Now, there is nothing wrong in seeking a doctor for help. She sought many doctors. We see that in verse 26. She sought for many things of many physicians. Over and over and over again she went to different doctors for help. She went to them because she was suffering. And because she went to them she suffered more. I am not sure all the techniques that they were using to try to cure her illness. We are not even exactly sure what the illness is. We do have certain illnesses today where there is internal bleeding. She had some kind of internal bleeding, what is called here an issue of blood. We have a hard time with that illness today. What in the world were they doing in their day to try to stop it?

It says here that she suffered many things not from the issue of blood. She “suffered many things of many physicians.”⁵ She was suffering greatly.

She suffered, also, in the financial realm in that she spent all that she had. That is what it says in verse 26. She had spent all that she had. You thought it was only America in the 21st century that it was expensive to go to see a doctor. Well, you are right in line with

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⁴ Mark 5:34  
⁵ Mark 5:26
the biblical pattern. They were expensive in that day as well. She had lost all of her wealth. More than that she had sought these doctors for a long period of time. It is not that she sought the doctor for a month and then she got better and everything was ok. Day after day, year after year, 12 years for the same illness, 12 years.

She was demonstrating, you could say, a faith in the doctors, repeatedly, by going to the them and asking for their help, going to them and paying for their help, going to them because there was nothing she could do, trying something that they were advising her to do in order that she might stem this issue of blood.

She didn’t get a little bit better. Not only she did not get a little bit better, she didn’t even stay the same that she was. Scripture tells us she grew worse.

Twelve years with the same illness. Twelve years with the doing everything that man told her to do, 12 years with trying everything that man lay before her and she was worse at the end of this.

Now hopefully you don’t have such an illness. But there are illnesses that come upon God’s people that are incurable as far as what we know in the modern world of medicine. And apart from the Lord stepping in and dealing with it, a man can only say to you, “Find comfort in your family or find comfort in something that you like doing.”

This woman had an incurable illness. And if this morning you say, “I don’t have an incurable illness,” well, do you have a trial that is greater than you are? Do you have a trial that you can’t overcome? Do you have a trial that you are going through now that as you look at it now it is bigger than you are?

I say we all have such trials. What I say is, “What do we do in such trials?”

The greatest trial we have is that trial of salvation, is it not? You are a sinner. God is angry with you. You have broken his law. He is going to judge you. How do you get rid of that sin?

And you can go to all the doctors of this world, the doctors in the realm of philosophy, the doctors in the realm of religion, the doctors in the realm of science. You can go to all of them and they are not going to be able to tell you how to remove your sins apart from this book.

You can spend all that you have—and many are—doing all kinds of religious deeds and activity and at the end of it they are not better, but worse.

What did she do? She heard of Christ and she came to him. You see that in verse 27. “When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind [him].” Here we see that her faith in man was reversed because now she was seeking the Savior and in seeking the Savior she is seeking one who is not a medical doctor, who does not have a shingle, as it

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6 Mark 5:27
were, outside his door telling people, “The doctor is in. Come see him.” She is going to see a teacher, a preacher, one that others have told her about.

And what we find is that she had a real faith, a real faith. She had faith to approach Christ. When she heard of him, she went to him. And we realize that last week—or, actually, two weeks before—we were studying this chapter five and we noted that our Lord went over the Sea of Galilee to the region of the Gadarenes. He cast out a legion of demons out of a man. They didn’t want him in that city and now he has come back over the Sea of Galilee and he arrives on the shore and a great crowd gathers and he is in that crowd as Jairus. And he says, “Come, come to my house and my daughter is near death. Come and speak and lay your hand on her and she will be healed.”

And before he can get there, there is in this crowd this woman. This woman had heard of him and came.

We speak of faith coming by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.\(^7\) Here is the hearing of faith. She heard about Christ. We are not sure what she heard. Jairus was there. He was the ruler of the synagogue. We know that in that vicinity our Lord had been in a synagogue and done miracles. We can understand, then, why Jairus may have sought our Lord out. He saw things. He heard things right in the synagogue perhaps.

But this woman is by Word of mouth. She hasn’t heard our Lord. She has just heard that he has come and now she comes. The woman who had suffered for 12 years has heard about what he has done and she is seeking him out.

Do you remember back to the day you were saved? I had heard a great number of things about our Lord before I came. I heard testimonies. I had read the Scripture. I heard preaching. All of that goes in to that work of God in the heart. I know there is a point when you are regenerated, when you pass from death to life. But you just don’t pass from death to life in a vacuum.

God uses the preaching of his Word. God uses the testimony of his people. God uses the reading of the book. This becomes the seed as we were looking on last Sunday night, the seed that God sows in the heart when he saves a soul.

She heard and there was a response in the heart and she began seeking this one. And it says she came in the press behind him. Literally she came in the crowd behind him.

Like many of us, you would be embarrassed to show your face to Christ. You are embarrassed many times to come into a house of God and tell your need. She wanted to come to him. She wanted to be helped by him. Her faith was enough to get to him, but maybe not enough to stand before him in the front.

\(^7\) See Romans 10:17
And while she was there she had the faith to touch him. She left where she was because she had faith that he could help her. And she came in this crowd behind him, but she didn’t just stay in the crowd. She reached out and she touched him.

How many there are who come to the crowd on the Lord’s Day, but they won’t lay hold of Christ. They hear about him. They see others doing it. They see what is going on in other people’s life, but as far as their hand going up, their faith going up and laying hold of Christ, there is no faith.

And I would suggest to you, you come in the crowds this morning. You are here this morning. And even if you are a believer there is no blessing for you until you reach out your hand and you touch him.

You are not come this morning to watch a preacher worship. That’s popery. Protestant is that you come for your worship. You come and you exercise faith. You come and you sing. You come and you hear the Word and take the Word of God and apply it to your heart. You are active in the worship.

If you have come this morning to hear me sing, you are going to be really disappointed. And if you have come this morning just to watch a man perform some ceremony or even preach God’s Word and that is the reason you have come, you are going to go away from the crowd with your burden still upon your heart. You must come and deal with your sin and your unbelief and stretch out your hand of faith and lay hold of Christ.

She didn’t stop by merely being a part of the crowd. And she didn’t let the crowd get between her and Christ.

There are some who come to the house of God and you see so many people, they say, “Well, yeah, they have got so many burdens Christ isn’t interested about me.”

Oh, he is.

“Yeah, they have got burdens and they will call upon the Lord and they will have an answer, but not me. He is not going to hear me.”

She didn’t stop with the crowds being around Christ and let that be a hindrance to her. She made her way to the front of that crowd and she reached up and touched his garments, his outer cloak.

And more than that we find she had faith to confess Christ. After she touched his garment she wanted to be unknown. And she tried, as it were, to shrink back into the crowd where no one would see her and no one would, as it were, recognize her.

And yet our Lord immediately knowing in verse 30 that virtue had gone out from him—we noted last week that the word “virtue” there is the word “power”—power had gone out from him, turned around and he said, “Who touched my clothes?”
Now, did he know who touched him? Yes, he did. Power did not go out from him apart from his willing it to go out from him. And we are going to see that he understood exactly what she was thinking in verse 28 because he uses her language when he addresses her later on verse 34.

Why if he knew that this woman had approached him and touched him and that she had been healed by his power, why did he turn and speak to her? It is because the Lord doesn’t save anybody without establishing a relationship with that person. It doesn’t happen.

He doesn’t remove your sins, he doesn’t heal you, he doesn’t save you without establishing a relationship with you and he turned around and he didn’t let that woman shrink back into the crowd without speaking to her, without explaining to her what went on, without explaining to her something of her salvation and her relationship to him. And in doing so he drew out of her a confession before that crowd.

Some of us would be happy if we could be saved and nobody would know about it. We could take the hand of salvation and go our way. But that is not salvation. The Lord is never going to let that happen. The Lord is going to establish a relationship with you and part of that relationship is in this world you are going to have to identify yourself with him. She did.

And we find him turning and asking, “Who touched?”

The disciples didn’t know, but he knew. And he turns and he looks at the woman and she now is fearing she has been found out. And in verse 33 it says she was fearing and trembling, that the fear was upon her heart and the trembling was a continual trembling.

She came and fell down before him and told him all the truth, but when she told him all the truth she told who else? Everybody else, as well.

The Lord drew out of her this relationship that now had been established. He said, “Who touched me?” And he turned around and he looked at her and she knew that she was to speak to him and she came trembling and she told him everything that had happened.

You know, that’s all the Lord really wants you to do to those around about you is tell them everything that has happened. Tell them the truth.

Some of you are afraid to tell them the truth because they may mock you because they don’t believe in the God that you believe in. Some of them may mock you because they won’t come and confess their sin. They don’t want to deal with sin that way. They want to make excuses for their sin. They want to blame someone else for their sin or they want to say there is no sin.
When you come and tell them the whole truth you are going to tell them, “I am a sinner. I broke God’s law. I was under his judgment and God removed my sins and washed them away by the shed blood.”

She had a need. She came to the Lord and touched him. Immediately she was changed and when she was changed, he made her tell that to others. And she had the faith to do so.

What did he say, “Daughter, they faith...”? Can you not see her faith, her faith in coming, her faith in drawing out of the crowd and touching him, her faith now before the crowd even though she is afraid? She is speaking that which has happened to her. She is telling the truth.

So you have such faith this morning? It is Christ who saves. No question about that. In this story it is clear that it was his power who changed her and yet he said, “Your faith has made you whole.” What he was saying is, “The instrument by which I move and I work is faith.”

Now we know faith is a gift from God. But, still, man must exercise that faith. And this woman was exercising her faith and it called her faith. She was thinking. She was acting. She was resting upon Christ. That was given to her by Christ. We were studying that in the sabbaths school hour. But as far as she was concerned she was coming and laying hold of Christ. She was done with the confidence she had in man.

Do you have such faith in Christ? Are you resting upon him? Have you come to him? Have you reached out by faith and laid hold of him? He says, “All who come to me I will in no wise cast out,” speaking of salvation.

Paul says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

You come and by faith call upon him, you reach out and you touch him, you will be saved.

You know that there are people who study the doctrine of election and they think salvation begins and ends with election. It does not. Election is God’s choice. There are those who study God’s regeneration and they think salvation begins and ends with regeneration. No. Election is part of his salvation. Regeneration is part of his salvation. But if you are regenerate, what will you do? You will repent and believe on Christ and if you have not repented and believed on Christ you are not regenerate. That is clear in Scripture.

Mark 5:34
See John 6:37
See Romans 10:13
This woman, though she was sick and ill, had a heart that had been changed by God. She had real faith. She went where the crowds were because that’s where Christ was. And while she was there she reached out and she laid hold of Christ.

Now you can go to many crowds today and Christ not be there because there’s many houses of worship this morning where Christ is not welcomed. He is not preached. You can sing and you can dance in many of these places and you can have nice things said to you and about you by the minister in these places, but Christ is not set before you and you will not be encouraged to reach out and lay hold of him. You will be encouraged to reach out and lay hold of those sitting around you.

She had already done that and it didn’t work. She had already touched man. She had already done what man had said and man couldn’t help. And I am saying to you this morning as far as your soul’s need is concerned, nothing else will help you apart from your reaching out and laying hold of Christ. Nothing else would.

You can give all your money to the church and you are not going to be one whit better. And you can do all the things that the religious doctors tell you to do and you will not be one whit better. You are going to be worse off because you are neglecting the one who, indeed, is salvation. She had real faith. Her faith and confidence in man was reversed. Now she was looking to Christ and Christ alone. And she makes her way through the crowd. She reaches out and touches him and she confesses openly the truth about what has happened. She had real faith.

Christ will not let you be a secret disciple. I am not saying you are going to be called to preach. I am not saying you are going to be made to stand before a throng of people like I have to do on a Sunday and preach the Word. No, I am not saying that. But I am saying he is going to make you identify with himself in this world. That is what baptism is about, but that is not the only way he makes you identify with himself.

When you come to the house of God and you are among believers who are walking with him and loving him and obeying him and defending him, you are taking your stand with those believers. You are confessing him. And those, today, who are ashamed of doing that. They don’t want any part of that. They want to be in a crowd that they will be accepted by the world. Well, then you are leaving off confessing Christ.

You have to be among those who are seeking after holiness and righteousness and godliness, those who are confessing Christ that way. And as you do, you are taking up your confession with them. More than that he is going to make you tell others that you know him, maybe in your home, maybe your family. It may be those in your neighborhood, maybe the place where you work. He is going to have you tell others that you know him. It could be by giving out a tract.

He says, “If you are not going to confess me before this wicked and adulterous generation, I am not going to confess you before my Father in heaven.”

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11 See Matthew 10:32
What is he saying? “If you don’t have faith to confess me, you don’t have faith. You don’t have faith.”

I know there is a certain amount of timidity among most of God’s people, a certain amount of fear among most of God’s people. We saw that in Peter’s life on a previous occasion. He was bold and robust in his witness for Christ and yet at some times his faith was so small that he wilted before a woman. No, we all feel that at times.

The Lord will make you confess him. He will not allow you to take the benefit of salvation and shrink into the background, not to be heard from again. He is not going to do that.

As David said he had to waken his soul and challenge his soul to bless God for all the benefits that he has received. He wants you with your mouth to bless him. And it is not merely in the house of God. It is there, but not merely in the house of God, everywhere under his creation you are to praise his name.

Turn, if you would, to Psalm 150. The last psalm in the Psalter deals with our praising the Lord. It is a Hallelujah psalm in that the word Hallelujah is all through the psalm. The last few psalms are actually the הָלָל (haw-lal’) the Hallelujah psalms. And when you see the word “Praise ye the Lord,” as the psalm begins that is the word in the Hebrew Hallelujah.

In verse one it says this. “Praise ye the LORD.”12 All right? Fine. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. There is the command. Then what does it say? “Praise God in the sanctuary.”13 And we have done that. We are in the sanctuary today. We are praising him. But what does it say? Praise him in the firmament of his power.”14 The firmament, the heavens. Praise him everywhere under the heavens.

He is not asking you just to praise him here when you are among God’s people. Yes, you must do that. But he is telling you when you leave this house you must praise him. You must praise him. He is going to make you confess him before the world. And isn’t that where we really see whether we believe this book or not, when we actually go into the world and we are being challenged? We are among those who don’t believe and they are trying to move us away from Christ. Isn’t that where we really see the reality of do we believe or not believe? Isn’t that why we are praying daily for strength? Isn’t that why we are renewing our minds and our hearts by the Word of God daily that we might have strength to be that testimony, that witness in the world?

She had real faith, real faith.

12 Psalm 150:1
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
We can say, thirdly, her faith was rewarded. She was truly saved or delivered from her illness.

Now, she knew that something had happened. In verse 29 it says, “Straightway,” literally immediately, “the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.”\textsuperscript{15} And then it says, “Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out...”\textsuperscript{16} The word “straightway” and the word “immediately” same word in the Greek. Immediately something happened. She touched Christ and immediately there was a wholeness that came to her body and she knew it.

You couldn’t see it in the crowd. You couldn’t see the issue of blood, the flow of blood. But she could feel it and she understood, right away, that she had been healed.

How often that is what salvation is. March 26, 1970 I was in a high school classroom. That was actually my history class, but I had been staying after a baseball practice and there were those staying after track practice. There were about 40 of us in that room. I had heard the gospel most of life, if not all of it, but never once reached up and really touched Christ. There was that day I did. And when I stood up in that classroom and I laid hold of Christ I found Christ was real.

And I can’t explain to you what I felt inside, but I knew I was different. I knew something had happened. Oh, there are some of the same battles now that I had before. And there’s some of the same fears and doubts that I have now, I had before. But something that day changed. And I went out of that meeting not because I prayed something. It was before we ever prayed. When I stood up and I threw myself on Christ for salvation at that moment there was, instantaneous, a change that took place. I passed from death to life and I knew it.

And I left the meeting and the whole world had changed for me. Salvation is not a gradual thing. I realized that Christ will deal with us and sometimes convict us. And we come part way, but we don’t come all the way and he deals with us again. We come part way, but not all the way. I had done that for years.

But on March 26, 1970 I knew on that day I passed from death to life. And I could bring to this microphone this morning others and you would tell me it was on this day you passed from death to life.

Now some of you are having a hard time figuring out what day you passed from death to life because there was a lot of dealing with the soul and you came back and went back and you came back and went back and you came back to Christ and you went back. But I can tell you. If you are believing on Christ, there was a day where you instantaneously passed from death to life.

\textsuperscript{15} Mark 5:29
\textsuperscript{16} Mark 5:30
Turn, if you would, to John chapter five. It is very clearly stated there. In John five and verse 24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

That’s the words of our Lord. You passed from death to life. When? The moment you reached out and touched him. Or, as it is expressed here, the moment you believed you passed from death to life.

She reached out and touched him and it says that her desire was that she would be made whole. You see that in verse 28.

The word “whole” is the word for salvation. It is the verb, “to save.” Remember what Paul says? “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Here is the word in our context of a healing and it says, “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be saved.”

That is what you would actually translate this as if you were translating it not knowing the context. “I want to touch him that I might be saved.”

Now when you come down to verse 34 what does he say to her? “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole.” The word “whole” there is the same word in verse 28. They faith hath saved you. It saved you.

Now, is it a mistranslation that they say the world “whole”? No. It is dealing with health here, obviously. Later on in verse 34 he says, “Be whole of thy plague.” That is the word for healing. It is not the same word that is earlier in verse 34 in “thy faith hath saved thee.” And later its says, “You have been made whole. You are whole.” He is talking about physical healing.

And, obviously, this word can have to do with physical healing, but it also can have to do with spiritual salvation. What was it that she was looking for? I think she was looking for both. And that is why he said, “Your faith has saved you.”

She was reaching out to the Savior, this changer. The healing? Yes. But the soul as well. She was reaching out for salvation. And when she touched him she was changed.

How do you express that with one word? If you say she was saved you are leaving out the healing. If you say she is healed you leave out the word for saved. And so our

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17 John 5:24  
18 Romans 10:13  
19 Mark 5:28  
20 Mark 5:34  
21 Ibid.  
22 Ibid.
translators have put it in the context of healing and says that she was made whole. She was, both spiritually and physically, visibly she was made whole.

I don’t have a promise in the Bible that if you come to Christ you will be made whole physically in this hour. There is coming a day when you will be made whole physically. You have been promised that, not just you will get over an illness. You are going to get over everything that is wrong in your body. There is coming a day when your mortal body will put on immortality. Your vile body will be made like unto his glorious body. Your corruptible body will be made incorruptible. That day is coming. He has promised it as part of the atonement. And when you reached out and touched him, that became yours. It became yours.

But I don’t have a promise that he is going to heal you from every infirmity of the flesh now. In fact, he gave to the apostle Paul a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble. He gave it to Paul. Some of you are carrying around thorns in the flesh and you are doing the best you can with them. I have glasses. That is my thorn... one of the thorns in the flesh. As I grow older there are more. You have thorns in the flesh.

And he has not promised that you are going to have a full head of hair if you get saved. He has not promised you are going to see 20/20 if you get saved. He has not promised you are never going to have a cold or you will never have the flu virus. He has not promised that at all.

Now I believe all healing comes from him. I do believe that. I believe it has all been bought and paid for in the blood of Christ as every grace that comes to us has been bought and paid for in the blood of Christ. But I don’t believe what the charismatics say is true, that if you have real faith that you will never be sick. It’s a lie. It is not biblical and it torments God’s people when they are sick.

Job had real faith and he was sick. It was not because he was a sinner. It was not because of his wicked life. He was a righteous man more than any on the earth. There are more than one reason as to why God allows sickness to God’s people. It is a cruel and devilish taunt to come to God’s people and say, “If you are sick, it is because of your sin.”

Now there are sicknesses that do come in God’s chastisement. I understand that. But not all illnesses are a result of God’s chastening hand.

She came and she touched him and she was made whole. And Christ responded to that which she was thinking in her mind. She didn’t say it. She was thinking in her mind and when he addressed her he said, “Daughter, thy faith has saved thee.” That was what she was thinking and he knew it and he spoke to that.

But it was not merely that she was saved. She was also reconciled. You will see here that he says, “Daughter, thy faith has saved thee. Go in peace.” Literally, “go into peace.” She was already in peace.
He called her “Daughter.” She was already a part of the family of God now. He didn’t know her, but he addresses her as one of the family of God. “Daughter, go into peace.” In other words, “You are in peace now, but when you leave my side, you are not going away from peace. You have entered into a relationship with me and there is more peace ahead. There is this realm of peace. You are in a relationship with God now that you have been reconciled.”

And, lastly, we can say she was changed in a permanent way. Our Lord now told her, “Be whole of thy plague.”

You can imagine after 12 years of doing everything the doctors told you to do that there may have been times when she did what a doctor said and may have felt a little bit better and then only to have this come back again. And what does he tell her? It is not coming back. “I have done something that is permanent in your life and it is not coming back.”

And when you think of salvation there are many things that are permanent in your salvation. Regeneration is permanent. You can’t undo it. Thankfully we can’t undo it.

He comes and he gives us life. We are born from above. We have the ability to repent and believe. That is a gift from God. That is regeneration. It will never be taken away.

Redemption is something he will not undo. He has bought his people with the blood. He will not go back on that. He has laid down his blood as the purchase price. He owns you now. He is not giving that up. Not all the demons in hell, not all the sinners on earth can give him the desire or make him relinquish one soul that belongs to him. It is permanent. Your redemption is permanent. The remission of your sins is permanent.

Now, the people sitting next to you might remember your sins and remind you of them. And you, when you look in the mirror might remember your sins and remind yourself of them. But as far as your relationship with God is concerned, he as removed them as we read in Psalm 103, “As far as the east is from the west.” They are gone.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” It is his work.

And for our sins not to be removed is to say that he has failed. Think of that the next time you come to somebody you can’t forgive who is asking for forgiveness and you can’t forgive them. You are saying that God hasn’t forgiven them. Is that what you are saying?

“Well, I don’t see them as having arrived at a level of perfection whereby I will forgive them.”

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23 Mark 5:34
24 Psalm 103:12
25 1 John 1:9
Is that what the Bible says?

If you are waiting for a level of perfection before God forgives your sins, you are going to wait for all eternity because you are never going to reach that level of perfection. It is when you reach out by faith and you lay hold of him that he forgives all of your sins. And that is permanent. It has nothing to do with what you did. It has to do with what he has done. His name is at stake in the forgiveness of our sins. His name is at stake. And if he does not forgive all of your sins, then he will be seen to be the liar and the unfaithful one.

And the Scripture says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just.” It is his character that is at stake. “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” That is a permanent work to the one who really reaches out and touches him. There are many who aren’t reaching out and touching him. And that is where the rub is.

Regeneration is permanent. Redemption is permanent. Remission of sins is permanent and reconciliation is permanent. We are his children. We are at peace with him.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God.”

We are reconciled. He is not going to change that. Even when he chastens us because we wander, it is a chastening Paul says in Hebrews 12 of love, of love. He is not angry in a sense that he has got the baseball bat out there like we thought he had before he was saved and he is whacking us again. It is a chastening of love.

You have been reconciled. He has laid down his arms. And he is never going to go to war with you again if you are his people, never. And with that we have a relationship that has changed and it is permanent and Paul can say, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Not just regeneration. He is dealing with that in 2 Corinthians five. But he is dealing with the whole Christian life. In fact, the context is reconciliation, not regeneration. And he is saying, “Everything is become new.”

I am no longer going to hell. I am going to heaven. I no longer have my sins. I have the righteousness of Christ. God is no longer my enemy. He is my friend. I am no longer a slave of sin. I am in his family. Everything has become new. Everything.

The devil wants to come and tell you, he said, “No, no, no. Your plague is still there.”

It is not. It is changed. It is gone.

26 Ibid.
27 Ibid.
28 Romans 5:1
29 2 Corinthians 5:17
And he was very clear to tell the lady that. He was very clear to tell her, “Your plague is gone.”

Do you believe that this morning, that when you became a Christian everything became new and that there were permanent results that happened in your life?

But most of you this morning here are here because there was a time in your life when you reached out and touched him. You may have done that several times not knowing even to this very hour which one it was that was the one that changed you forever. But you know you are changed. You know this morning that you have reached out and touched him and you have been made whole.

What about our needs today?

Turn, if you would, to Hebrews chapter four and with this we will close. Hebrews chapter four. At the end of the chapter Paul is dealing with Christ as our great high priest. And he says in verse 14, “Seeing then that we have a great high priest...” He is not merely a priest. He is a high priest. He is not merely a high priest. He is the great high priest, verse 14. He is not merely a great high priest on the earth. He is a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, that is the reality of which the tabernacle was a type. We have this great high priest passed into the heavens. He identifies him: Jesus the Son of God. He says:

Let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

You have come here this morning. Do you have any needs? Do you need his help? Do you feel like you are the woman here and you have great issues that have to be resolved, that he can help you with if you can just get to him?

What does the Scripture say? There is a throne. He is on the throne. He is the great high priest on that throne and he has his arms stretched out to you and he says, “Come, touch me.”

In fact, he tells you here that he is already touched with the feeling of your infirmity. He has already been touched. He already feels your affliction. He already knows what you are going through and he says, “Come and obtain mercy. Come and obtain grace to help in the time of need. Come and lay hold of my garments.”

That is the invitation he has given to you and to me as his people this morning. What a glorious position we are in. We can be in a throng of people. We can be in the press. We

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30 Hebrews 4:14
31 Hebrews 4:14-16
can be behind him as it were and be afraid and stay in the crowds, do nothing. Or we can reach out our hands and say, “Lord, I have this need,” and reach out and touch him and see how he is going to answer.

And he says you will obtain mercy and you will find grace to help.

And the apostle Paul three times reached out and touched Christ for the thorn that was in his flesh. What happened for Paul? God said, “I am leaving the thorn and giving grace.” Isn’t that what he said? “My grace is sufficient for thee.”

So Paul says, “Fine. If that is the way the Lord wants to deal with my life, then it is obviously better for his glory that I have this thorn and so the thorn stays, the grace increases.”

I can’t tell you this morning how he is going to give you mercy and grace, but I can tell you that if you are in his will and you need mercy and grace to perform his will, whether it be physical illness, whether it be opposition of the world, whether it be financial distress, whatever it might be, you reach out and you touch him. You are going to find mercy and grace. You are going to find mercy and grace.

Brethren, that is what coming to the house of God is all about, what this woman did: reaching out and touching Christ for the needs that we have.

This morning if you will do that you will go away blessed. If, this morning, all you do is come and go through the motions of singing and even putting money in the offering or hearing the Word and not from the heart reaching out and laying hold of Christ, you are going to go out, perhaps, worse than you came in even though you are one of God’s people. You have to lay hold of Christ. You have to reach out and touch his garment.

Let us pray.

If this morning you say, “I am unsaved,” then I would bid you, “Come to the Savior.” The lady who touched him was made whole by faith sets a pattern for all of us. If you are unsaved this morning you will find a welcome at the throne of Christ. He will receive you. He is not a tyrant. He has already died for the sins of his people. He has love greater than anything you have ever experienced. If you will come and touch the hem of his garment, you will find grace and mercy and forgiveness of sins.

This morning if you say to me, “I am one of his own. I have reached out and touched him,” he does want you to confess him. But he also wants you to draw near to him for all of your needs and you are going to have needs. We all will. God will see to it that you might in your own relationship with the Lord draw from him grace and mercy every day you are here below. You need him. Reach out and touch him, lay hold of him, whatever that need is.

32 2 Corinthians 12:9
May the Lord give us all grace this morning to lay hold of the Savior.

*Father in heaven, we are thankful that Christ is sufficient for the needs of his people. We are thankful that we do not have to fear all of us reaching out and touching him and him losing power because he cannot meet our needs. We are thankful, Lord, that he can meet the needs of every believer here. And we ask, oh God, that we would receive grace and mercy this morning and even in this next hour as we will gather together for prayer in the basement we ask, oh God, that we would lay hold of Christ in every area of every capacity where we need him and that we would know his help and power.*

*Lord, we would ask for those who are unsaved this morning that you would give them grace to reach out and lay hold of Christ. Lord, give them such grace. We ask for those who have wandered from him that this would be a time of restoration for them, that they would reach out and lay hold of Christ again as their Lord and their Redeemer.*

*Lord, give great grace we pray. May we all rejoice as we leave the house of God this morning knowing that we have received from Jesus Christ the mercy and grace that is promised. For we ask these things in his precious name. Amen.*